



FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
BUREAU of INDIAN AFFAIRS

Federal Subsistence Board

1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503



FOREST SERVICE

AMENDMENT TO THE FEDERAL SCHEDULE FOR THE CHITINA SUBDISTRICT OF THE COPPER RIVER

SPECIAL ACTION: FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

Under Authority of: 36 CFR 242.10 and .19
50 CFR 100.10 and .19

Special Action No: 11-RS-02-16

Issued at: Copper Center, Alaska, June 29, 2016

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, July 4, 2016

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. August 31, 2016, unless superseded by subsequent emergency order

EXPLANATION: This Special Action supersedes Special Action No. 11-RS-01-16 and increases the opening for the taking of salmon in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Copper River during the week of July 4 – 10, 2016. The fishery was scheduled to open to Federally qualified subsistence users from 12:01 a.m. on Monday, July 4 to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 5, and then again from 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 7, to 11:59 p.m. on Sunday July 12. The fishery will now open on Monday, July 4, 2016 at 12:01 a.m. and continue through Sunday, July 10, at 11:59 p.m., a total of 168 hours. This Special Action (11-RS-02-16) also provides the tentative fishing schedule for future fishing periods. These periods are subject to modification by future Special Actions depending on the number of salmon entering the Copper River as estimated by sonar located downstream from the Chitina Subdistrict at Miles Lake.

The State of Alaska (State) also conducts a personal use fishery in this Subdistrict. That fishery is open to all Alaska residents. The State and Federal fishery usually follow identical fishing schedules.


REGULATION: 36 CFR 242.27(e)(11)(ix) and 50 CFR 100.27(e)(11)(ix) are amended to read: The Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District will open to the taking of salmon on July 4, 2016 at 12:01 a.m. and remain open for 168 hours, closing on July 10, 2016 at 11:59 p.m.

Additional fishing periods, subject to change by subsequent Special Action, are:

Wednesday, July 13, 12:01 a.m.	through Sunday, July 17, 11:59 p.m.	120 hours
Wednesday, July 20, 6:00 p.m.	through Sunday, July 24, 11:59 p.m.	102 hours
Thursday, July 28, 8:00 a.m.	through Sunday, July 31, 11:59 p.m.	88 hours
Tuesday, August 02, 6:00 p.m.	through Sunday, August 07, 11:59 p.m.	126 hours

Tuesday, August 09, 8:00 a.m. through Sunday, August 14, 11:59 p.m. 136 hours
Monday, August 15, 12:01 a.m. continuous as provided by regulation

Federal Subsistence Board

by delegation to 
Eric Veach
Acting Superintendent
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
June 29, 2016

JUSTIFICATION: In December, 2001 the Federal Subsistence Board adopted regulatory proposals establishing a new Federal subsistence fishery in the Chitina Subdistrict of the Copper River. This fishery is open to Federally qualified users having customary and traditional use of salmon in this Subdistrict. Those eligible to participate are residents of Cantwell, Chickaloon, Chisana, Chistochina, Chitina, Copper Center, Dot Lake, Gakona, Gakona Junction, Glennallen, Gulkana, Healy Lake, McCarthy, Kenny Lake, Lower Tonsina, Mentasta Lake, Nabesna, Northway, Slana, Tanacross, Tazlina, Tetlin, Tok, Tonsina and those individuals living along the Tok Cutoff from Tok to Mentasta Pass and along the Nabesna Road.

The State of Alaska (State) also conducts a personal use fishery in this Subdistrict. That fishery is open to all Alaska residents.

Management of both the Federal and State fisheries is based on the numbers of salmon returning to the Copper River. This is known as “abundance based management.” A larger than forecast salmon run will allow additional fishing time. A smaller than forecast run will require restrictions to achieve upriver passage and spawning escapement goals.

The preseason fishing schedule described above is based on projected daily sonar estimates at the Miles Lake sonar located downstream from the Chitina Subdistrict at Miles Lake. Adjustments to this preseason schedule are expected as a normal function of an abundance-based management strategy.

During June 20 – June 26, there were 84,270 salmon counted past the Miles Lake sonar. The preseason projection for this period was 49,917 salmon, which results in a surplus of 34,353 salmon. Copper River sockeye salmon migratory timing and the previous five-year average harvest and participation rates indicate sufficient numbers of salmon available to justify an increase of 42 hours above the preseason schedule to 168 hours of fishing time during the week of July 4 – July 10.

DISTRIBUTION: Ryan Noel, Stewart Cogswell, George Pappas, Theo Matuskowitz, Donald Mike, and Donald Rivard, Office of Subsistence Management, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Anchorage; Mary McBurney, Clarence Summers, Deborah Coble, and Carol Ann Woody, National Park Service Regional Office, Anchorage; Eric Veach and Greg Biddle, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Copper Center.